

Gov. Schwarzenegger's Environmental Accomplishments

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has continued California's long history of environmental leadership. For nearly two decades, the state has been working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2005, the Governor set aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets – 1990 levels by 2020, directing the California EPA to lead a Climate Action Team to coordinate the state's various ongoing climate change programs and make further reduction recommendations.

Climate Action Team

The Climate Action Team (CAT), made up of decision makers from various state boards and departments, issued their first report in April 2006, outlining more than 40 strategies to reduce climate change emissions. The report is a blueprint for reaching the governor's targets and includes reduction benefits from ongoing programs, as well as benefits from strategies that will require either administrative or legislative action.

California Solar Initiative

The Governor introduced the Million Solar Roofs Initiative which was adopted by the PUC in 2005. The Initiative is a joint program of the CPUC and the Energy Commission. The added use of solar power is expected to reduce emissions as much as 3 million metric tons per year by 2020.

California Hydrogen Highway Network

The California Hydrogen Highway Network (CaH2Net) is the Governor's vision to build a network of hydrogen fueling stations, linked conveniently throughout the state. Hydrogen is a clean source of power for cars, trucks and buses and can be made from renewable sources of energy.

Renewable Portfolio Standard

The CPUC and Energy Commission coordinate the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which calls for more energy to come from clean, renewable sources such as wind and sun. In 2003, the Governor called for an acceleration of the RPS to 20 percent by 2010 rather than 2017, a full seven years earlier than statute. In 2005, the Governor called for an acceleration of the RPS to 33 percent by 2020.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

The Governor placed 25 million acres under conservation management in a region that produces 65 percent of the state's water supply and half of all timber.

California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state's investor-owned utility regulator, requires them to consider the potential cost of their carbon emissions when buying electricity. While California does not have a cap on greenhouse gases, this practice helps the electricity sector prepare for the possibility of carbon limits on the electricity sector. In 2005, the CPUC adopted the nation's most aggressive energy efficiency investment, totaling \$2 billion over the next 3 years. By 2008, the efficiency programs will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 3 million tons per year, equivalent to taking 650,000 cars off the road.

Bioenergy Interagency Working Group

The Bioenergy Interagency Working Group (BIWG), initiated by the Governor in 2005, is made up of decision makers from various state boards and departments. The July 2006 report outlined strategies to increase the development, production and use of bioenergy. When used as a transportation fuel, a gallon of cellulosic ethanol produces 70 percent less greenhouse gases than a gallon of gasoline.

Breathe Easier

In March 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger launched the Breathe Easier campaign to help educate Californians about the effects of vehicle pollution and encourage participation in the state's vehicle retirement program for gross polluters.

Protecting California's Roadless Forests

Gov. Schwarzenegger filed a petition to begin the process to permanently protect 21 percent of California's 18 national forests. This would keep 4.4 million acres off limits to any further development.

State & Consumer Services Agency

The State and Consumer Services Agency (SCSA) implements the Green Building Initiative, an effort initiated by the Governor, to improve energy efficiency and promote green technologies such as recycled products, energy controls and other clean strategies.

Business, Transportation & Housing Agency

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) continues to promote clean technologies and energy efficiency to minimize traffic impact, increase the use of biofuels, purchase cleaner fleet vehicles and utilize recycled construction materials.

Goods Movement Action Plan

Cal/EPA and BTH are currently finalizing a Goods Movement Action Plan to reduce emissions from the movement of goods. Working together, the two agencies will issue a blueprint for action to develop solutions that benefit both the economy and the environment.

Other State Programs:

Climate Action Registry

The Climate Action Registry (CAR), a non-profit organization developed by legislation, recruits businesses and organizations to voluntarily provide emissions data. Membership in the registry has grown exponentially since it began in 2002. The CAR provides emissions protocols to members, promotes energy efficiency and supports environmentally-friendly practices.

California Energy Commission

The California Energy Commission is the state's energy planning agency responsible for developing and implementing building and appliance energy efficiency standards. It licenses power plants 50 megawatts or larger, implements renewable energy programs, and supports the state's energy efficiency research and development programs.

Center for Climate Change

The California Center for Climate Change is the only state-funded climate research institute in the nation. The virtual center coordinates climate research by leading scientists from throughout the west.

Flex Your Power

Promoting energy efficiency and conservation, popular campaigns like "Flex Your Power" are a key component to reducing demand. Energy production from fossil fuels produces a significant amount of greenhouse gases, so any effort to reduce demand is an important reduction strategy.

California Air Resources Board

The California Air Resources Board (ARB), the nation's pioneer in reducing air pollution, approved regulations to reduce greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles in 2004. The new standards are expected to reduce greenhouse gases from cars and trucks by up to 18 percent by 2020, and 27 percent by 2030. In addition, the ARB is responsible for maintaining a greenhouse gas emission inventory for the state.

California Integrated Waste Management Board

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is close to meeting its goal to reduce the state's waste by 50 percent through recycling and reuse. By keeping more waste out of landfills, officials expect to reduce greenhouse gases by 3 million metric tons per year by 2010.

Center for Energy Efficiency

In 2006, the Governor announced a \$1 million grant to the University of California, Davis to create the nation's first university-based Center on Energy Efficiency. The multi-disciplinary research center will focus on advancing innovation and bringing energy efficiency products, services and practices to the state's marketplace.

Successful partnerships:

California Cities

The Cities for Climate Protection Campaign goal is to reduce greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities. More than 25 California cities have joined the campaign including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco and Chula Vista.

California Companies

In support of the Governor's targets and the state's ongoing efforts, a number of California companies have voluntarily reduced greenhouse gases. DuPont and IBM, two Fortune 500 companies, each have reduced emissions by more than 60 percent.

Sustainable Silicon Valley

Working in partnership with the state, Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) is a group of Silicon Valley manufacturers, which has pledged to reduce greenhouse gases in Santa Clara County to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010. Members include Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed, Oracle, Calpine and PG&E.